



In this December, 2014 photo, Sony Pictures Entertainment headquarters are seen in Culver City, Calif. Some cybersecurity experts say they've found striking similarities between the code used in the hack of Sony Pictures Entertainment and attacks blamed on North Korea which targeted South Korean companies last year.

(AP Photo/Nick Ut)

**BY BERNARD CONDON**

**AP Business Writer**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Hackers calling themselves Guardians of Peace made ominous threats Tuesday

against movie theaters showing Sony Pictures' film "The Interview" that referred to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

The group also released a trove of data files including about 8,000 emails from the inbox of Sony Entertainment CEO Michael Lynton. The data dump was what

the hackers called the beginning of a "Christmas gift." But GOP, as the group is known, included a message warning that people should stay away from

places where "The Interview" will be shown, including an upcoming premiere.

**Continued on page 3**



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## Sony hackers reference 9/11 in theater threats

Continued from Front

Invoking 9/11, it urged people to leave their homes if located near theaters showing the film.

The Department of Homeland Security said there was "no credible intelligence to indicate an active plot against movie theaters," but noted it was still analyzing the GOP messages. The warning did prompt law enforcement in New York and Los Angeles to address measures to ramp up security.

"The Interview" is a comedy in which Seth Rogen and James Franco star as television journalists involved in a CIA plot to assassinate North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. Its New York premiere is scheduled for Thursday at Manhattan's Landmark Sunshine, and is expected to hit theaters nationwide on Christmas Day. It premiered in Los Angeles last week.

Rogen and Franco pulled out of all media appearances Tuesday, canceling a BuzzFeed Q&A and Rogen's planned guest spot Thursday on "Late Night With Seth Meyers." The two stars had just appeared Monday on "Good Morning America" and Rogen guested on "The Colbert Report." A representative for Rogen said he had no comment. A spokeswoman for Franco didn't respond to queries Tuesday. The FBI said it is aware of the threats and "continues to work collaboratively with our partners to investigate

this matter." It declined to comment on whether North Korea or another country was behind the attack. Speculation about

top counterterrorism official.

"Having read through the threat material myself, it's actually not crystal

meeting earlier Tuesday, Los Angeles Police Chief Charlie Beck said his department takes the hackers' threats "very seriously"

to learn the Sony hackers were using yopmail addresses. He said there was no way he could identify the users.

"I cannot see the identities of people using the address ... there is no name, no first name," he said in a phone interview with The Associated Press. He said yopmail is used around the world but there are "hundreds and hundreds" of other disposable email sites.

Leroy, who lives in Barr, outside Strasbourg in eastern France, said he heard about the Sony hackers yesterday on the radio but knows nothing more. He said he has not been contacted by any authorities. Since Sony Pictures was hacked by GOP late last month in one of the largest data breaches ever against an American company, everything from financial figures to salacious emails between top Sony executives has been dumped online.

Separately Tuesday, two former employees of Sony Pictures Entertainment sued the Culver City, California company for not preventing hackers from stealing nearly 50,000 social security numbers, salary details and other personal information from current and former workers.

The federal suit alleges that emails and other information leaked by the hackers show that Sony's information-technology department and its top lawyer believed its security system was vulnerable to attack, but that company did not act on those warnings. □



In this December, 2014 photo, actors Seth Rogen, right, and James Franco attend the premiere of the Sony Pictures' film "The Interview" in Los Angeles. Amid threats by hackers against movie theater's showing the film, Rogen and Franco pulled out of all media appearances promoting the film Tuesday, Dec. 16, 2014, canceling a BuzzFeed Q&A and Rogen's planned guest spot Thursday on "Late Night With Seth Meyers."

(Photo by Dan Steinberg/Invision/AP Images)

a North Korean link to the Sony hacking has centered on that country's angry denunciation of the film. Over the summer, North Korea warned that the film's release would be an "act of war that we will never tolerate." It said the U.S. will face "merciless" retaliation.

The New York Police Department, after coordinating with the FBI and Sony, plans to beef up security at the Manhattan premiere, said John Miller, the NYPD's

clear whether it's a cyber response that they are threatening or whether it's a physical attack," Miller said. "That's why we're continuing to evaluate the language of it, and also the source of it. I think our primary posture is going to be is going to have a police presence and a response capability that will reassure people who may have heard about this and have concerns."

Following a commission

and will be taking extra precautions during the holidays at theaters. Patrick Corcoran, spokesman for the National Association of Theater Owners, wouldn't comment on the threats. In their warning Tuesday, the hackers suggested Sony employees make contact via several disposable email addresses ending in yopmail.com. Frenchman Frederic Leroy, who started up the yopmail site in 2004, was surprised



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## Oil pipeline to top US Senate agenda next year



Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell of Ky. meets with reporters on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, Dec. 16, 2014. McConnell will take over as the new Senate majority leader when the 114th Congress convenes in January. McConnell says approving the Keystone XL pipeline will top the Senate agenda in January. Congressional Republicans have been pushing for approval of the pipeline for years. Obama has resisted because of environmental concerns.

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

**STEPHEN OHLEMACHER**  
Associated Press  
**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Sen-  
ate Republican Leader

Mitch McConnell declared Tuesday that approving the Keystone XL pipeline will top the Senate agenda

in January, potentially setting up an early veto confrontation with President Barack Obama.

Congressional Republicans have been pushing for approval of the pipeline for years. Obama has resisted because of environmental concerns. "People want jobs and this project will create well-paying high-wage jobs for our people," McConnell told reporters. "We're optimistic we can pass it and put it on the president's desk."

The \$8 billion pipeline would carry oil from Canada into the United States and eventually to the Texas Gulf Coast. It has become a symbol for divisions over the country's energy and environmental policy.

Environmentalists say the issue is a significant test of Obama's commitment to address climate change. Republicans and other supporters say the project would create jobs and promote energy security, reducing U.S. reliance on oil from the Middle East.

The 1,179-mile (1,900-kilometer) project is proposed to go from Canada through Montana and South Dakota to Nebraska,

where it would connect with existing pipelines to carry more than 800,000 barrels of crude oil a day to refineries along the Texas Gulf Coast.

The Republican-led House has repeatedly passed legislation approving the pipeline. But the bills have died in the Democratic-controlled Senate. Last month, a bill fell one vote short of advancing in the Senate. Republicans will take control of the Senate in January, and McConnell is to become the new majority leader. The Republican said the pipeline will be "the first item up in the new Senate."

It could be a lively debate. McConnell promised to allow unlimited amendments, meaning senators could try to force votes on all kinds of unrelated issues. Such debates have become rare in the Senate in recent years. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, a Democrat, often uses parliamentary procedures preventing amendments on most bills. □

## Eight-day Jewish festival of Hanukkah begins

**JERUSALEM (AP)** — Jews are celebrating the eight-day festival of Hanukkah with traditions that commemorate ancient miracles and symbolize triumph over oppression.

The holiday began after sundown Tuesday with families gathering to light the first nightly candle of ceremonial lamps and to exchange gifts. In Israel, some display the lamps in special windproof glass boxes outside.

Hanukkah, also known as the festival of lights, com-

memorates the Jewish uprising in the second century B.C. against the Greek-Syrian kingdom — which tried to force its culture on Jews and desecrated the Jewish Temple in Jerusalem.

The holiday lasts eight days because, according to tradition, when the Jews rededicated the Temple in Jerusalem, one vial of oil, enough for one day, burned for eight.

Oily foods like fried potato pancakes or doughnuts are eaten in commemoration. □

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## Ex-Marine wanted in 6 killings committed suicide

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SEAN CARLIN

Associated Press

PENNSBURG, Pennsylvania

(AP) — An Iraq War veteran suspected of killing his ex-wife and five of her relatives was found dead of self-inflicted knife wounds Tuesday in the woods, ending a day-and-a-half manhunt that closed suburban Philadelphia schools and left people on edge.

Bradley William Stone's body was discovered a half-mile from his Pennsburg home, about 30 miles (48 kilometers) northwest of Philadelphia. He had cuts in the center of his body, District Attorney Risa Vetri Ferman said.

Stone, a 35-year-old former Marine sergeant locked in a custody dispute so bitter that his ex-wife feared for her life, went on a 90-minute shooting rampage before daybreak Monday at three homes a few miles apart, authorities said.

The killings set off the second major manhunt to transfix Pennsylvania in the past few months. Eric Frein spent 48 days at large in the Poconos after the September ambush slaying of a state trooper.

As the manhunt dragged on — with SWAT teams swarmed through neighborhoods and the Philadelphia police sending in a heat-sensing helicopter — at least five schools within a few miles of Stone's Pennsburg home closed, and others were locked down. Veterans' hospitals and other places tightened security.

Ashley Tessier, of Pennsburg, took her sick 7-month-old son to the pediatrician in a stroller Tuesday as SWAT teams knocked on doors along her route. She said she felt she had no choice, since she postponed Monday's doctor visit because residents were told to take cover. "Seeing all this is really terrifying — the dogs, the guns, the SWAT team," she said. The rampage unfolded in the towns of Harleysville, Lansdale and Souderton. Stone's former wife, 33-year-old Nicole Stone, was found dead in her apartment after a



Investigators stand in a wooded area near where the body of Bradley William Stone was discovered, Tuesday, Dec. 16, 2014, in Pennsburg, Pa. The Iraq War veteran suspected of killing his ex-wife and five of her relatives was found dead in the woods near his suburban Philadelphia home Tuesday after a day-and-a-half manhunt that closed schools and left people on edge. (AP Photo/Matt Rourke)

neighbor saw Stone fleeing around 5 a.m. with their two young daughters, authorities said. The girls were later found safe with Stone's neighbors.

Police went to two other homes and discovered five more people dead: Nicole Stone's mother, grandmother, sister, brother-in-law and 14-year-old niece. A 17-year-old nephew suffered wounds to the head and hands, and Ferman said he was in "very serious" condition.

Stone and his ex-wife had fighting over their children's custody since she filed for divorce in 2009. He filed an emergency request for custody this month and was denied on Dec. 9, Ferman said. Neighbors said Nicole Stone lived in such fear of her ex-husband that she would sometimes ask her apartment complex's maintenance staff to go in and check her place first because she was afraid he might be lying in wait.

"He would call and just harass her and threaten her," said neighbor Michele Brewster. "She shouldn't have had to live in terror." "She would tell anybody who would listen that he was going to kill her and that she was really afraid for her life," said Evan Weron, another neighbor in Harleysville. □

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## Jeb Bush all but declares candidacy for president

**TALLAHASSEE, Florida (AP)**

— Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush all but declared his candidacy for president, an early move that raises more clearly the possibility of a 2016 showdown between America's two most powerful political dynasties. Bush, the son and brother of former Republican presidents, declared on Facebook on Tuesday that he will "actively explore" a campaign for president, making him the first potential candidate to step this far into the 2016 race. The announcement — more than a year before the first primary contests — could deeply affect the

race for the Republican nomination. He is the early favorite of the party's establishment wing, and his move puts immediate pressure on other establishment-minded Republican contenders to start actively competing with him for donors, campaign staff and national attention. In contrast to the crowded Republican field, former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton has emerged as the overwhelming favorite for the Democratic nomination, even though she has not confirmed her intention to run. Her husband, Bill Clinton, defeated former Presi-



Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush gives the keynote address at the National Summit on Education Reform in Washington. On Tuesday, Dec. 16, 2014, Bush took his most definitive step yet toward running for president, announcing plans to "actively explore" a campaign and form a new political operation allowing him to raise money for like-minded Republicans.

(AP Photo/Susan Walsh)

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dent George H.W. Bush, the father of Jeb Bush, in 1992. Kristy Campbell, a spokeswoman for the 61-year-old Jeb Bush, said he has not yet made a final decision on whether to seek the Republican Party's presidential nomination. She said that he will announce his decision next year "after gauging support" for a run. But the statement by Bush, who is among the more moderate potential candidates, is sure to begin to help sort out a field that includes more than a dozen potential candidates, none of whom have formally announced plans to mount a campaign. In a holiday message posted on his Facebook page, the son and brother of Republican presidents said he had discussed the "future of our nation" and his own prospective bid for

the White House with members of his family over the Thanksgiving holiday. "As a result of these conversations and thoughtful consideration of the kind of strong leadership I think America needs, I have decided to actively explore the possibility of running for president of the United States," Bush wrote in a holiday message on his Facebook and Twitter accounts. Should he ultimately decide to run, Bush can tap into his family's vast political network, but it remains unclear how the legacies of last two Bushes to hold the presidency will affect his chances. His older brother, George W. Bush, was deeply unpopular by the time he left the White House after two terms in 2009, amid fatigue over the Iraq war and anger over the financial cri-

sis that triggered an economic recession. However, recent polls suggest Americans now see him more favorably. And after more than two decades, Americans have warm views of their father's presidency. Although his record as Florida governor from 1999 to 2007 was overwhelmingly conservative, Bush has long been a favorite of establishment Republicans less concerned about conservative ideology than reclaiming the White House. Many Republican leaders see in Bush a pragmatist who served two terms in a crucial battleground state that President Barack Obama won twice. His campaign would attract strong support from the same donor pool that other establishment-minded Republicans would need. □

## Super Saturday expected to beat out Black Friday

Rachel Murray  
Cox Newspapers

**DAYTON, Ohio** -- Black Friday gets all the hype, but it will not be the king of shopping days this year. Super Saturday will reign supreme in retail sales, according to ShopperTrak.

"We expect this Saturday, December 20th, to be number one for the first time in 10 years," said ShopperTrak founder Bill Martin.

Super Saturday sales should be close to \$10 billion, while Black Friday sales were \$9.1 billion, Martin said.

Kelley Andary said she isn't surprised that Saturday will be so big because every year she gets busier and puts off shopping. "I think I can buy it online, and then it's too late, and so I come out to the mall," Andary said.

Shopper Carrie Armine was surprised Black Friday would take a back seat to Super Saturday.

"That's actually exciting for us last-minute shoppers," she said. "I'll probably shop on Saturday now."

Super Saturday will be No. 1 this year because of a combination of a good spot on the calendar -- five days before Christmas -- plus procrastinating shoppers and milder weather, Martin said.

He added that "Black Friday sales were down, due to early November promotions and all the stores opening on Thanksgiving." Shoppers such as Jim Place would rather avoid crowds altogether. He won't be shopping on Saturday.

"I'll be watching football," he said. "I'm retired now so I can avoid the crowds and get my shopping done early."

To avoid the late gift-buying frenzy, shoppers should get out early this week, Martin said.

For the entire holiday shopping season, retailers are expecting good results, with sales of \$276 billion, up 3.8 percent from last year, Martin said. □

# Holiday shipping season moves into high gear

Mark Fisher

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**DAYTON, Ohio** -- The nation's largest delivery companies say they are better prepared for this year's crush of holiday packages, and their performance over the Thanksgiving/Black Friday period suggests they'll do a better job of delivering presents on time than they did last year.

last year, while UPS had a 95 percent on-time rate, up from 89 percent a year ago.

UPS has said it expects to handle 585 million packages this December, an 11 percent increase over last year. The company has hired an estimated 90,000 to 95,000 seasonal workers to help with extra shipments.

And UPS officials this week an-

the expansions of the company's capacity and the addition of two additional operational days -- one provided by the calendar, the other by a company decision to make the Friday after Thanksgiving a full operations day -- will "smooth out what is expected to be record volume."

FedEx officials said they expected Monday was the bus-

deadline to send greeting cards, packages and letters first-class to ensure delivery in time for Christmas. For procrastinators, Dec. 23 is the deadline for sending packages using Priority Mail Express, postal service officials said.

Last-minute holiday shipping: -- When faced with a last-minute gift delivery, holiday shoppers are more likely to place



**Courier Melvin Childs carries packages to be loaded onto trucks for delivery at a FedEx facility in Marietta, Ga. With just a few days until Christmas, the delivery service is expecting a spike of packages as customers rush to get deliveries before the holiday.**  
(AP Photo/David Goldman)

Major retailers miscalculated the volume they expected to sell late in the 2013 holiday shopping season, and some over-promised on their ability to deliver packages by Dec. 25. As a result, the major package-delivery companies were swamped with more packages than they could handle.

By one estimate from logistics software developer ShipMatrix Inc. and the Wall Street Journal, as many as 2 million express packages due to be delivered Christmas Eve last year didn't make it to their destinations by Christmas morning.

This year, delivery companies say they anticipate even more volume than last year -- but they insist they're ready for it. So far, they seem to be living up to their promises.

ShipMatrix analyzed the on-time delivery rates of FedEx and UPS during Thanksgiving week, and each improved its performance over last year. FedEx scored a 91 percent on-time delivery rate, up from 83 percent in the same week

nounced an expansion of its Hebron, Kentucky, campus near the Greater Cincinnati Airport, as part of a series of expansions at four of UPS locations in North America. It is the second addition to the Hebron campus of 2014. The facility's footprint grew by 151,000 square feet in April, then added another 274,000 square feet with the most recent investment, boosting its total to 1.25 million square feet.

UPS officials predicted its peak day will be Monday, Dec. 22, when it expects to deliver 34 million packages. Company officials are forecasting that six days during this year's holiday season are likely to surpass last year's single-day delivery record of 31 million packages. On an average day, UPS delivers about 17 million packages.

Alan Gershenhorn, UPS executive vice president and chief commercial officer, said in a statement that consumer acceptance of purchasing gifts online is growing steadily. But Gershenhorn said he expects

iest day in company history, with a projected 22.6 million packages delivered. Overall, FedEx expects to deliver 290 million packages between Black Friday and Christmas Eve, an 8.8 percent increase over last year.

The company has hired 50,000 seasonal package handlers, helpers, drivers and other support personnel.

Monday also marked the U.S. Postal Service's busiest mailing day of the year with more than 640 million cards, letters and packages expected to be processed, according to postal service officials. Last year, 607 million pieces of mail were processed on the postal service's busiest day. In total, the U.S. Postal Service expects to deliver 15.1 billion cards, letters and parcels this holiday season. Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe said the postal service was "ready for the rush and ready to deliver. This isn't just our busiest time of year -- it's our season."

The postal service said this Saturday, Dec. 20, is the

their faith in UPS (34 percent) or FedEx (28 percent) than the U.S. Postal Service (19 percent) to get their package to its destination on time.

-- Of those 11th-hour holiday shoppers, 43 percent have waited because they didn't know what to get their intended recipient, 23 percent said they needed to save more money before shopping, and 22 percent were waiting to see how much cash they had left.

-- By the Saturday before Christmas, 56 percent of shoppers usually haven't completed their gift-buying. Source: RetailMeNot.com consumer survey of 1,006 American adults conducted Nov. 17-20.

U.S. Postal Service holiday shipping

To ensure delivery by Christmas Day, the USPS recommends the following mail and package deadlines:

Dec. 20: First-class mail and packages

Dec. 20: Priority Mail

Dec. 23: Priority Mail Express

Source: U.S. Postal Service □

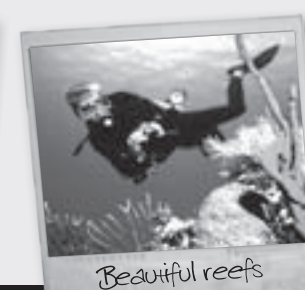


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### American Living:

## Dave Letterman pulls curtain on holiday tradition

**DAVID BAUDER**  
**AP Television Writer**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — With the curtain soon to fall on David Letterman's late-night television career, the end comes Friday for an odd and emotional holiday tradition that involves comic Jay Thomas, the Lone Ranger, a giant meatball and, most indelibly, singer Darlene Love.

Love will sing "Christmas (Baby Please Come Home)" for the 21st and final time on Letterman's annual holiday show. He's retiring from the "Late Show" next May. "I'm looking forward to it this year more than any other year, with mixed feelings, of course," said Letterman's longtime bandleader, Paul Shaffer. "It's been incredibly meaningful for me."

Letterman's holiday show has traditions, just not the ones you see in most households. Thomas comes by to repeat the story of giving a ride to Clayton Moore, television's Lone Ranger. Then, as he's done since 1998, Thomas tries to knock the meatball off the top of a Christmas tree with a football.

The centerpiece is Love's performance of the song that identifies her as the "Christmas queen," primarily because of the annual exposure on Letterman.

"Christmas (Baby Please Come Home)" was the single off "A Christmas Gift For You," an album by producer Phil Spector and the artists in his orbit. Now considered a classic, it was a flop upon its release on Nov. 22, 1963, the day President John F. Kennedy was assassi-

nated.

Shaffer never forgot it, though.

"The Phil Spector album has always been the one that has gotten me through the Christmas season, which can be depressing for people in show business, who are often working instead of being with their families," he said.

Love hadn't even performed the song on-stage until the mid-1980s, when she was part of "Leader of the Pack," a tribute show for Ellie Greenwich, writer of "Christmas" (with Jeff Barry and Spector) and other 1960s hits like "Be My Baby." Shaffer was part of the show. Letterman came to see it one night and was blown away by Love's version. Letterman invited Love to sing it on his show



**Singer Darlene Love performs at Cipriani Wall Street in New York. Love will sing "Christmas (Baby Please Come Home)" for the 21st and final time on Letterman's annual holiday show. He's retiring from the "The Late Show with David Letterman" next May.**

in 1986, then on NBC. She hasn't returned every year, but was there more often than not.



**Stephen Colbert, left, has a laugh on stage with host David Letterman on the set of the "Late Show with David Letterman," in New York.**

"David is nothing if not a traditionalist," Shaf-

fer had his own, private ritual. Every year, the day of the holiday show, he called his good friend Greenwich for spiritual support. That ended with her death in 2009.

The song has been covered multiple times — by the likes of U2, Mariah Carey, Michael Buble and Joey Ramone — since Love began making her Letterman appearances. She moved from California to New York for "Leader of the Pack," and does a holiday show in theaters each year.

Shaffer and "Late Show" director Jerry Foley, meanwhile, begin preparing for the song's annual performance weeks in advance. Shaffer always tries to bring different elements — a military choir one year, children in another. In true Spector "Wall of

(AP Photo/CBS, John Paul Filo) Sound" tradition, Shaffer's "CBS Orchestra" has greatly expanded to a stage filled with musicians.

Each year's surprise is the choreographed entrance of the saxophone player for his solo. He's emerged from a gift-wrapped box delivered by a sleigh-full of showgirls, come down a chimney and flown across the stage hoisted by cables.

Love intentionally keeps herself in the dark about unique elements of each year's version until arriving at the theater.

"I just show up and sing the song," she said.

She has a sweet spot in her heart for the first year, when she performed with Shaffer and a small band. "The first one really sticks out to me as special," she said, "and there was no glitz or glamour to it." □

(Photo by Greg Allen/Invision/AP)

fer said, "and he kept asking for her year after year. It's as simple as that."





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## Taliban assault on Pakistan school leaves 141 dead

RIAZ KHAN

REBECCA SANTANA

Associated Press

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP) —

In the deadliest slaughter of innocents in Pakistan in years, Taliban gunmen attacked a military-run school Tuesday and killed 141 people — almost all of them students — before government troops ended the siege.

The massacre of innocent children horrified a country already weary of unending terrorist attacks. Pakistan's teenage Nobel Peace laureate Malala Yousafzai — herself a survivor of a Taliban shooting — said she was "heartbroken" by the bloodshed.

Even Taliban militants in neighboring Afghanistan decried the killing spree, calling it "un-Islamic."

If the Pakistani Taliban extremists had hoped the attack would cause the government to ease off its military offensive that began in June in the country's tribal region, it appeared to have the opposite effect. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif pledged to step up the campaign that — along with U.S. drone strikes — has targeted the militants.

"The fight will continue. No one should have any doubt about it," Sharif said. "We will take account of each and every drop of our children's blood."

Taliban fighters have struggled to maintain their potency in the face of the military operation. They vowed a wave of violence in response to the operation, but until Tuesday, there has only been one major attack by a splinter group near the Pakistan-India border in November. Analysts said the school siege showed that even diminished, the militant group still could inflict horrific carnage.

The rampage at the Army



Pakistani volunteers carry a student injured in the shootout at a school under attack by Taliban gunmen, at a local hospital in Peshawar, Pakistan, Tuesday, Dec. 16, 2014. Taliban gunmen stormed a military school in the northwestern Pakistani city, killing and wounding more than 100 people, mostly children, officials said, in the latest militant violence to hit the already troubled region. (AP Photo/Mohammad Sajjad)

Public School and College began in the morning when seven militants scaled a back wall using a ladder, said Maj. Gen. Asim Bajwa, a military spokesman. When

they reached an auditorium where students had gathered for an event, they opened fire.

A 14-year-old, Mehran Khan, said about 400 students were

in the hall when the gunmen broke through the doors and started shooting. They shot one of the teachers in the head and then set her on fire and shouted "God

is great!" as she screamed, added Khan, who survived by playing dead.

From there, they went to classrooms and other parts of the school.

"Their sole purpose, it seems, was to kill those innocent kids. That's what they did," Bajwa said. Of the 141 people slain before government troops ended the assault eight hours later, 132 were children and nine were staff members. Another 121 students and three staff members were wounded.

The seven attackers, wearing vests of explosives, all died in the eight-hour assault. It was not immediately clear if they were all killed by the soldiers or whether they blew themselves up, he said. The wounded — some still wearing their green school blazers — flooded into hospitals as terrified parents searched for their children. By evening, funeral services were already being held for many of the victims as clerics announced the deaths over mosque loudspeakers. □

## Police make 7 terror arrests in Spain, Morocco

PAUL SCHEMM

CIARAN GILES

Associated Press

RABAT, Morocco (AP) — Spanish and Moroccan police said Tuesday they had arrested seven suspected members of a terror network spread across their two countries aimed at recruiting women for the Islamic State group in Syria and Iraq.

The Moroccan Interior Ministry said two heads of the group were based in Fnideq, just outside the Spanish enclave of Ceuta, where women were brought from Spain and indoctrinated with jihadi thought.

European authorities have noticed a sharp increase in the recruitment of women from Europe for the Islamic State group in the past year, with at least 100 coming just from France.

The women were to be used as suicide bombers or married off to jihadi fighters, said the Moroccan statement. Accounts from the areas under Islamic State control in Syria describe large numbers of foreign women working as cooks, cleaners and in child care.

European officials say these networks, many operating

online, target young people in search of their identity with the aim of planting multi-generational roots for an Islamic caliphate.

The Spanish statement said four women, including one minor, were among the five arrested in the Spanish enclaves of Ceuta and Melilla as well as the mainland city of Barcelona. One of the women holds Chilean citizenship, Chilean Interior and Security Minister Rodrigo Penailillo told reporters.

Both Spain and Morocco have arrested dozens of suspect jihadi militants and recruiters in recent years, with networks often centered on northern Morocco and the Spanish enclaves.

There are more than 1,200 Moroccans reportedly fighting in Syria, with more than 100 arrested upon their return. In July, Morocco sounded the alarm over the threat of terrorist attacks from those returning from Syria and Iraq and boosted security in public places.

The cell was in contact with Moroccan commanders fighting with the Islamic State feared to be planning attacks in the kingdom as well, the Moroccan statement said. □



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Smoke rises from the site of a car bomb explosion in Radda town, 100 miles (160 kilometers) south of the capital Sanaa, Yemen, Tuesday, Dec. 16, 2014. Two suicide car bombers rammed their vehicles into a Shiite rebels' checkpoint and a house south of the Yemeni capital Tuesday, as a school bus traveling nearby killing at least 25 dead including at least 15 primary school students, Defense Ministry, rebels and witnesses. (AP Photo)

## In Yemen: Bombers kill 26, including 16 students

**AHMED AL-HAJ**  
**Associated Press**

**SANAA, Yemen (AP)** — Two suicide car bombers rammed their vehicles into a Shiite rebels' checkpoint and a house south of the Yemeni capital Tuesday as a school bus was traveling nearby, killing at least 26 people including at least 16 primary school students, according to the Yemeni government, rebels and witnesses.

Witnesses said that the first car was loaded with potatoes apparently disguising explosives underneath. When the car bomber arrived at the checkpoint manned by rebels, he blew up the vehicle as the students' bus was passing. After the first explosion, a second car targeted the home of a Shiite rebel leader, Abdullah Idris.

State TV quoted the country's Supreme Security Committee — Yemen's highest security body — as saying that at least 26 including 16 students and 10 civilians were killed in the twin bombings. Witnesses at the site

of the attack said that the rebels brought four pickup trucks and dumped dozens of bodies into them while several ambulances rushed to the scene to carry away the wounded. Body parts littered the street along with open bags of potatoes.

The Shiite rebels, known as the Houthis, blamed al-Qaida for the attack in the Radaa area of Baydah province, calling it "the ugliest crime against childhood." The group said the school bus was carrying female primary school students.

The witnesses spoke on condition of anonymity for fear retribution.

This is the second time Idris's house has been targeted since October. The Houthis and al-Qaida have been fighting in Radaa since the rebels overran the area in October.

The empowered Shiite rebels have made significant military advances in recent months, seizing control of the capital and other strategic cities.

Yemen has been gripped by a power struggle be-

tween President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi and the Houthis, who have allied with his predecessor, ousted President Ali Abdullah Saleh. On Tuesday, Saleh loyalists, who form the majority of parliament, derailed a vote of confidence on the new government's program. A raucous session Tuesday came to an abrupt end before a vote, after Saleh loyalists bickered over internal party politics.

They accuse Hadi of backing U.N. sanctions against Saleh and two top rebel leaders, and have called on the government to explicitly denounce the sanctions.

Also Tuesday, Shiite rebel gunmen, who seized control of Sanaa in September, surrounded the ministry of defense and packed the city's nearby streets, preventing the minister from accessing his office. A day earlier, the minister had kicked out the rebels from around the ministry for blocking his chief of staff from entering.

Later, Hadi drove to the ministry, effectively ending the siege. □

## Israel arrests members of a Jewish extremist group

**JERUSALEM (AP)** — Israeli police on Tuesday arrested 10 Jewish activists from an extremist group opposed to Arab-Jewish coexistence, including its leader, in the first major clampdown against a fringe organization that has become a symbol of rising anti-Arab sentiment.

Police said the crackdown followed a 10-month undercover investigation of "Lehava," known for its efforts to break up Arab-Jewish romances. The group has become increasingly visible in recent months amid rising tensions around a sensitive Jerusalem holy site and a wave of deadly Palestinian attacks.

Police spokesman Micky Rosenfeld said the arrests early Tuesday took place in Jerusalem and in the Hebron area of the West Bank, a region known for its hard-line Jewish settlements. He said the suspects were apprehended on suspicion of racist incitement and calls for "violent activity and terror."

On Monday, Israel also indicted three group members for allegedly torching a bilingual Hebrew-Arabic school in Jerusalem late last month where Arab and Jewish elementary and high school students study together.

"There is absolutely no place for these people in Israeli society," former Justice Minister Tzipi Livni told Israel Radio. "Our situation is simply too sensitive to allow it."

Lehava, which means "flame" and is also a Hebrew acronym for "The Prevention of Assimilation in the Holy Land," is made up of disaffected Israeli youths and ultranationalist religious Jews who oppose Arab-Jewish dating and coexistence. It is influenced by the teachings of the late Rabbi Meir Kahane, an ultranationalist whose Kach party was banned from parliament for its racist views in 1988. Kahane was killed by an Arab gunman in New York City in 1990.

Lehava activists have run vigilante patrols and telephone hotlines urging Jews not to date Arabs, issued flyers warning Arab men to stay away from Jewish areas, and waged campaigns to prevent Israeli employers from hiring Arab workers. In August, group activists staged a high-profile protest outside an Arab-Jewish wedding. At times of heightened tensions, its supporters have held demonstrations and chanted anti-Arab epithets, though it is unclear whether the group is behind these rallies.

Formed in 2009 by far-right activist and West Bank settler Bentzi Gopstein, the group primarily stayed on the fringes but rose in prominence this summer as tensions flared following the kidnapping and killing of three Israeli teens by Palestinian assailants, the revenge killing of a Palestinian teen, and a month of war between Israel and Hamas militants in the Gaza Strip. More recently, tensions have risen in Jerusalem, highlighted by violence around a sensitive holy site and a deadly Palestinian assault on a synagogue that killed five people. In this tense atmosphere, the group's bumper stickers and posters have become a regular sight in Jerusalem, and it is common to see youths walking the streets wearing the group's yellow-on-black insignia, a flame burning inside a Star of David. □





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## Haiti takes more steps to end political standoff

**PIERRE LUXAMA**  
Associated Press

**PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)**

— Haiti was in a state of political flux following the resignation over the weekend of the country's prime minister because of an ongoing stalemate with opposition lawmakers in the Senate.

President Michel Martelly has not yet announced who he will nominate to replace Prime Minister Laurent Lamothe to run the government of the troubled country, and a presidential spokesman, Lucien Juras, declined in a news conference Monday to name the candidates.

Juras did say, however, that Martelly was addressing the recommendations of an independent commission created by the president to end the impasse over delayed legislative elections.

The recommendations he was carrying out included seeking the resignation of the nine members of the country's electoral council and the release of prisoners who government opponents have said were improperly jailed for political reasons, an allegation the president denies.

Martelly said late last week that he accepted the recommendations of the commission,

which include the resignation of Lamothe, who announced he was stepping down early Sunday.

"I made the ultimate sacrifice for the country to move forward and to respect the findings of an independent commission set up by president," he said in an interview with The Associated Press. "I always said I would be part of the solution to

the problem and not part of the problem itself and I kept my word."

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry praised Martelly for accepting the recommendations of the commission, describing his acceptance of resignation of the prime minister as proof of his commitment to resolving the impasse.

"The United States urges all parties to reach without delay a definitive agreement on all outstanding issues and to carry out that agreement in good faith," Kerry said Tuesday.

Lamothe predicted it would be difficult to win approval from the Senate and Chamber of Deputies for his replacement, noting that it typically takes about 90 days to approve a prime minister and Cabinet in the politically fractious country.

Lamothe said his 31-month tenure was actually the longest for a prime minister in Haiti and said the country had made significant gains, particularly considering the devastation of the January 2010 earthquake that destroyed much of the capital.

Foreign investment and school enrollment both increased, security has improved and most of the encampments that sprung up for the hundreds of thousands left homeless by the earthquake are now gone. "The results are there and they are undeniable," he said.

But it was the political standoff with parliament that led to his resignation. Martelly was supposed to call elections in 2011 for a majority of Senate seats, the entire Chamber of Deputies and local offices. □



Anti-government demonstrators fall to the ground during clashes with national police officers during a protest calling for the resignation of Haiti's President Michel Martelly in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Tuesday, Dec. 16, 2014.

(AP Photo/Dieu Nalio Chery)



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The big master bedroom has a huge walk in closet and is the perfect place to relax after a long day at work. The kitchen is an upscale European kitchen with easy access to the outside porch with a dining table that seats 6 people comfortably.



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## Russia: Ruble continues its decline despite interest rate increase

**ANDREW E. KRAMER**

© 2014 New York Times

**MOSCOW** - Despite the Russian central bank's extraordinary move to defend the currency, the ruble's value continued to slide on Tuesday, presenting President Vladimir Putin with an acute new set of political and economic challenges.

Scenes that Russians hoped had receded into the past reappeared on the streets. Currency exchange signs blinked ever-changing digits. Russians rushed to appliance stores to buy washing machines or televisions to unload rubles. Car dealerships including Volvo in Russia halted business, unsure of prices.

Following the dramatic middle-of-the night interest rate hike, a sense of economic chaos settled over the Russian capital. The ruble was in free fall, dropping to below 80 rubles from the dollar after opening the day at 64 to the dollar.

"We are seeing an economic crisis," Natalia V. Akindinova, a professor at the Higher School of Economics, said in a telephone

interview. "We are seeing a sharp devaluation of the ruble at a time when the central bank doesn't have the reserves to influence the market, as it did in the past crises."

The Russian economy is

sion next year.

Global investors are increasingly concerned that tumult in Russia may not be isolated. Many emerging markets like Venezuela and Nigeria are dependent on their energy

pared to more than \$100 this summer.

Emerging markets are also under pressure as the Federal Reserve in the United States shifts strategy. Some countries like Turkey and South Africa have de-

"There is country-specific risk for Russia; that's not going to go away," said Phyllis Papadavid, a foreign exchange strategist at BNP Paribas in London. "But there's a larger story." In Russia, investors are growing increasingly worried that the Kremlin has in effect decided to print money to address a growing debt problem. Traders are also raising concerns that the cronyism and opaque insider dealings that have plagued business here had now spread to monetary policy.

According to analysts, the ruble's fall on Monday was sparked by word of an opaque deal involving the central bank and the state-controlled oil company, Rosneft. The well-connected business executive running the company, Igor I. Sechin, a longtime associate of Putin, had apparently persuaded the central bank to effectively issue billions of new rubles to his company to help cover debts. The governor of the Central Bank, Elvira Nabiullina, speaking on Russian television, said the interest rate decision had been made to stanch the fall of the ruble. In its moves, the Russian central bank also increased allotments of dollars to the Russian banking system, to finance the purchase of rubles as part of the effort to stabilize the currency. "We have to learn to live in a different zone, to orient ourselves more towards our own sources of financing," she said. In her televised remarks, Nabiullina said Russia would not resort to capital controls to stem the ruble's fall. But traders have long fretted that Nabiullina, a former economy minister, lacked the political spine to stand up to Putin or his longtime allies like Sechin. And yet, though the absence of any credible independence by the Central Bank is at the heart of the ruble crisis today, it's unclear any figure in Russia could provide it, given the ever more authoritarian nature of Putin's rule. □



**Russians queue to receive goods purchased at an electronics store in Moscow, the day after a dramatic middle-of-the-night interest rate hike, Dec. 16, 2014. With the ruble in free fall and economists sounding the crisis alarm, Muscovites were rushing to buy durable goods like washing machines or televisions.**  
(Sergey Ponomarev/The New York Times)

getting battered by the painful combination of Western sanctions and low oil prices. The country is expected to fall into a reces-

exports, which are getting hurt by the deep and sustained decline in oil prices. Oil is now trading at around \$55 a barrel, com-

pended heavily on external financing to fund their growth, and they have been hurt by expectations that the Fed will raise rates.

## China looking for new markets in east Europe

**DUSAN STOJANOVIC**

Associated Press

**BELGRADE, Serbia (AP)** — In an attempt to secure business ties and increase political influence, China has launched a charm offensive in eastern Europe — where the European Union and Russia are also vying for sway.

Chinese Prime Minister Li Keqiang, accompanied by 200 corporate executives, met the leaders of 16 central and eastern European countries Tuesday for a two-day summit being billed in China as an opportunity to deepen ties to the region and boost relations with the EU. The Asian economic power is interested in energy, infrastructure and other big projects to fuel its economy at a time when labor costs are rising at home, risking crimping its exports, its traditional economic strength. Chi-

nese investors hope to boost their presence in the region where Western companies may be reluctant to take financial risks.

Li said that closer ties would bring massive Chinese investments and open up large Chinese markets for central and eastern European goods. He sought to alleviate fears voiced from some in the EU that China's regional deals could contravene the 28-nation bloc's strict financial and trade rules. "Everything will be conducted in accordance with the policies that are valid in the European Union," Li said at the opening of the meeting. "China supports the European Union, EU integration processes and a strong euro."

The timing of the China summit — the third such in three years — is significant as it comes while Russia, the tra-

ditional regional powerbroker, is struggling with deep economic problems partly caused by crippling Western sanctions over Moscow's role in Ukraine.

Only a few weeks ago, Russian President Vladimir Putin announced that Moscow is spiking a multibillion-dollar gas pipeline project for southern Europe that was to pass through several east European countries, which was to bring them hundreds of millions of dollars in transit fees.

Putin argued that the EU's opposition to the South Stream pipeline — which would have run under the Black Sea to Bulgaria, Serbia, Hungary and further on to Europe — meant Russia had no other choice but to scrap it. The 16 European countries at the summit all share a former communist past. Some, like Bulgaria,

Romania, Poland and Hungary, are part of the EU. Others, like Serbia and Bosnia, would like to join, but are still influenced by Russia.

"The difference between the Russian and Chinese approach in the region is that Russians are more political, while Chinese are more commercial," said Serbian economy analyst Miroslav Prokopijevic.

Unlike Moscow, which is applying a combination of economic and political pressure on the regional governments, Beijing sees its increased economic influence in the area as a chance to boost ties with the EU.

With western Europe struggling with economic stagnation and the Russian economy collapsing, some of the eastern European countries have been looking to China for commercial deals. □





## Prepare For the Holidays at Palais Hindu Christmas World!

**EAGLE** - What's new and turning heads at Palais Hindu Christmas World this year? As December draws closer, excitement builds for that time of year when families gather to decorate their tree, pulling glit-



tall tree is positively brimming with feathered angels, snowflakes, glittery picks, silver and white glass balls, crystal drops and elegant white birds. Look also for a very special clear glass ball filled with falling snowflakes.

At Palais Hindu, we have all of this AND SO MUCH MORE! We have over 35 trees displaying some of the exciting possibilities for this Christmas season. Do stop by and take a look. We'd love to help you find the perfect tree or ornaments to express what Christmas means to you. And if we have a ball while we're at it, well, that's just the way we do things at Palais Hindu Christmas World.

Merry Christmas! □

tering ornaments, ribbons and endless strings of flashing lights out of boxes. The biggest question during our favorite festive season is: "What should I do this year?" If you're looking for inspiration, come on over to Palais Hindu and let us do what we do best: take you on a journey through the season's hottest trends to create a tree that's uniquely yours.

So strap yourself in and prepare to take a seriously fun journey through Christmas World where this season's colors and themes are in full evidence. Prepare for a trip that will take you to the "Eiffel Tower" in France, then all the way to Japan for "Sushi" with a stop at "The Buddha" from Thailand.

According to the style gurus, emerald is one of the hottest colors for this season, and the peacock, among the trendiest icons. Taking our cue from this, we've created a tree that combines some of our

most extravagant and exotic ornaments. Poinsettias with peacock eyes painted on them and blue rhinestoned butterflies are nestled among glittered peacock and emerald green ferns on this tree. Multiple strands of matching ribbon, gold-flecked snowflakes and textured balls in royal blue complete the look. Stunning, if we may say so ourselves! Though glitter and shine



may be the choice of many, some of our customers prefer a more natural look. Among the year's hottest trees is "All Things Natural" – also our most popular and most visited tree, and our Customers Choice this year. "All Things Natural" is home to natural burlap snowmen, poinsettias, wooden owls and stars, jute teddy bears and felt gingerbread men. Bright red berries and poin-

settias stand out beautifully against this natural backdrop. Hands down our favorite tree this Christmas! Every year Palais Hindu does specialty trees. Besides these, we always pay tribute to Aruba, Carnival and Kids. This year, our Parrot tree pays tribute to the tropical island we call home.

We all have boxes of special ornaments, the ones that bring to mind the most precious times in our lives. Newly-weds can begin their collection with a selection of "Our First Christmas" ornaments that highlight our Purple tree. This tree is aptly surrounded by metallic silver poinsettias and pearl hearts. Exotic orchids in trend-setting purple fall gently from the boughs of this tree, imbuing it with a bit of tropical magic and vibrance. Quite apart from newly-weds, fashion lovers will delight in our mix of purple, silver, black and white. What would Christmas be without white? Our 12-foot



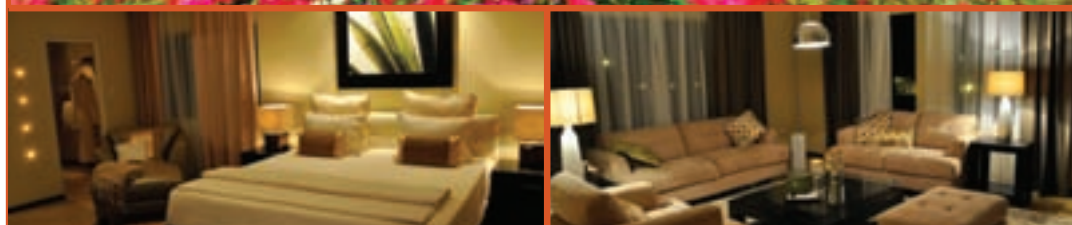


## The Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa Makes a Cool Donation

**SAN NICOLAS** - The Ibero American High School in San Nicolas was the grateful recipient of eight inverter air conditioning units, courtesy of the Radisson Aruba Resort, Casino & Spa. In a recent ceremony at the school, Director of Human Resource Glenn Farro and HR Manager An-

gelique Croes, had the distinct pleasure of pressing the remote control buttons to activate the air-conditioners, welcoming climate control into the school's auditorium. School director William (Andy) Centeno reports the gift will surely promote learning, and make the school experience for

his 200+ students ever-so pleasant and comfortable, promoting education and learning. Dr. R. Jay Nelson, Executive Director of the Association of Christian Teachers and Schools, also thanked the Radisson representatives and guests for their community involvement. □



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## RENAISSANCE MALL, MARRIOTT AND RADISSON

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In a June 7, 2013, file photo United States' DaMarcus Beasley listens the national anthems before the start of the 2014 World Cup qualifying soccer match against Jamaica in Kingston, Jamaica.  
Associated Press

## Damarcus Beasley retires from U.S. national team

**CHICAGO (AP)** — DaMarcus Beasley, the first American to play in four World Cups, says he is retiring from the U.S. national team after 14 years.

The 32-year-old scored 17 goals in 121 international appearances and played in every minute of the Americans' four games at this year's World Cup, where the U.S. lost to Belgium in the second round. After playing in midfield at three World Cups, Beasley was shifted to left back for this year's tournament.

Beasley made his national team debut in 2001 and appeared his finale last month in an exhibition against Colombia in London. After playing abroad for PSV Eindhoven, Manchester City, Rangers, Hannover and Puebla, Beasley signed with Houston in July. He had started his professional career in Major League Soccer with the Chicago Fire from 2000-04. Beasley will continue his club career with the Dynamo. □



# SUN SET

## Bucks win at buzzer, No. 2 pick Parker hurt

Phoenix Suns' Eric Bledsoe (2), Marcus Morris, right, and P.J. Tucker, center, react after losing an NBA basketball game against the Milwaukee Bucks, Monday, Dec. 15, 2014, in Phoenix. The Bucks won 96-94.

Associated Press  
Page 21



## Happy Hour at BUGALOE

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# Saints beat Bears 31-15, grab NFC South lead

ANDREW SELIGMAN

AP Sports Writer

**CHICAGO (AP)** — Drew Brees threw for 375 yards and three touchdowns as the New Orleans Saints beat the Chicago Bears 31-15 on Monday to take the NFC South lead.

The Saints (6-8) moved into first place ahead of Carolina (5-8-1) and Atlanta (5-9) after losing four of their previous five games. They also rebounded from a 41-10 loss to the Panthers.

Brees completed 29 of 36 passes and reached the 4,000-yard mark for the ninth straight year. He threw two touchdown passes to Josh Hill and another to Marques Colston. Pierre Thomas had five catches for 83 yards. David Hawthorne had three of New Orleans' seven sacks and the Saints intercepted three of Jay Cutler's passes to bring his NFL-leading turnover total to 24.

For the Bears (5-9), the loss comes after a week in which they were again engulfed in controversy. Offensive coordinator Aaron Kromer admitted he was a source behind a critical report by the NFL Network about Cutler, owning up

to it in public Friday after earlier asking players and coaches for forgiveness.

Cutler completed 17 of 31 passes for 194 yards, and the Bears couldn't get anything going. They managed only 278 yards against one of the league's worst defenses on a soggy night in which thousands of seats went unused.

There were 10,749 no-shows, and that might not have been a bad thing for the Bears, the way they played.

The Saints went ahead in the second quarter after wasting several opportunities in the opening period. Bears cornerback Kyle Fuller was called for a 17-yard pass-interference penalty trying to defend Jimmy Graham, setting up New Orleans with a first down at the 8.

Brees then rolled to his right on the first play of the second quarter and found an open Hill, who lunged across the goal line.

The first half was so bad for Chicago that its best play of the first two quarters might have been Patrick O'Donnell's 56-yard punt that went out of bounds at the New Orleans 5 with

about four minutes left in the second. But the Saints responded with a 10-play, 95-yard drive.

Brees threw a 9-yard touchdown pass to Colston with 38 seconds left, giving the Saints a 14-0 lead. Cutler's pass was then picked off by Pierre Warren on the final play in the half.

Brees and Hill connected for a 7-yard TD on their first possession in the third on a similar play as their first score, making it 21-0. It was 24-0 early in the fourth when Cutler hit Marques Wilson with a 1-yard touchdown pass, denying New Orleans its first shutout since 2012.



Chicago Bears quarterback Jay Cutler (6) is sacked by New Orleans Saints outside linebacker Junior Galette (93) during the first half of an NFL football game Monday, Dec. 15, 2014, in Chicago. Associated Press



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## NHL Capsules

# Penguins use rookies, Fleury to top Lightning 4-2

**The Associated Press**

**PITTSBURGH (AP)** — Marc-Andre Fleury stopped 28 shots, and Bryan Rust and Brian Dumoulin scored their first NHL goals as the Pittsburgh Penguins beat the Tampa Bay Lightning 4-2 on Monday.

Brandon Sutter added a short-handed goal and Steve Downie had a goal and an assist as the Penguins beat the Lightning for the 10th straight time. Pittsburgh captain Sidney Crosby missed his third straight game due to the mumps, though he is expected to return later in

the week.

Jonathan Drouin and Nikita Kucherov scored for Tampa Bay. Lightning goalie Ben Bishop left after the first period with a lower-body injury and did not return. Evgeni Nabokov made 18 saves in two periods and took the loss. **ISLANDERS 3, DEVILS 2, SO UNIONDALE, New York (AP)** — Josh Bailey scored the winning goal in the fifth round of the shootout as the Islanders rallied in the third period for the second straight game. Bailey fired a shot between the pads of Long

Island native Keith Kincaid, who was trying for his first NHL victory in front



**Pittsburgh Penguins' Steve Downie (23) knocks a rebound past Tampa Bay Lightning goalie Evgeni Nabokov (20) for a goal during the second period of an NHL hockey game in Pittsburgh Monday, Dec. 15, 2014.**  
**Associated Press**

of nearly two dozen family members. He was in line for the win until Matt

Martin scored the tying goal with 4:15 left. Bailey also scored in the second period, and Kyle Okposo added a shootout goal for the Islanders. Jaroslav Halak made 26 saves to top the Devils. New York is 6-0 in shootouts and 9-0 after regulation. Marek Zidlicky and Scott Gomez scored first-period goals, and Jaromir Jagr assisted on both but New Jersey dropped its fourth straight (0-2-2). Kincaid finished with 31 saves.

**SABRES 5, SENATORS 4, SO**

**BUFFALO, New York (AP)** — Matt Moulson scored the only goal of the shootout to lift Buffalo to its sixth straight home win. Moulson and Rasmus Ristolainen also scored in regulation for the Sabres, while Brian Flynn and Marcus Foligno each had a goal and an assist as Buffalo has won a season-high four straight overall. The Sabres improved to 10-3 since starting the season 3-13-2.

Alex Chiasson had a goal and an assist for the Senators, and Bobby Ryan, Curtis Lazar and Mark Stone also scored. Buffalo's Jhonas Enroth and Ottawa's Robin Lehner both had 29 saves through overtime. Enroth also stopped Mika Zibanejad, Kyle Turris and Bobby Ryan in the shootout. □

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# James, Love lead Cavs over Hornets 97-88

**CLEVELAND (AP)** — LeBron James scored 27 points with 13 assists, and Kevin Love added 22 points and 18 rebounds, as the Cleveland Cavaliers defeated the Charlotte Hornets 97-88 on Monday.

The Cavaliers jumped to a 21-0 lead, but the Hornets regrouped and got within two points early in the third quarter before the Cavaliers pulled away.

The Cavaliers ended the third on a 21-9 run. Kyrie Irving scored 16 points for the Cavaliers, who were coming off consecutive road losses to Oklahoma City and New Orleans after winning eight in a row. Kemba Walker led Charlotte with 24 points while Al Jefferson added 14.

### CELTICS 105, 76ERS 87

**PHILADELPHIA (AP)** — Kelly Olynyk scored a career-high 30 points to lead the Celtics to a victory over Philadelphia.

Avery Bradley had 15 points, and Brandon Bass and Jeff Green added 14 apiece for Boston (8-14), which snapped a three-game skid.

Rookie Nerlens Noel had a career-high 19 points for the 76ers (2-22), who dropped to 0-13 at home this season. Philadelphia moved closer to the NBA mark for worst home start to a season, set in the 1993-94 season when the Mavericks began 0-19.

### RAPTORS 95, MAGIC 82

**TORONTO (AP)** — Lou Williams scored 18 points and Kyle Lowry had 17 as the Raptors won their 10th straight game over the Magic.

Amir Johnson scored 11 points and Patrick Patterson had 10 for the Raptors,

who improved to 11-1 this season against opponents with losing records. This was Toronto's third of six straight games against teams below .500.

Tobias Harris scored 18 points, Ben Gordon had 16, Nikola Vucevic had 13 and Victor Oladipo 12 for the Magic, who have not won in Toronto since March 26, 2012.

### PACERS 110, LAKERS 91

**INDIANAPOLIS (AP)** — Rodney Stuckey scored 20 points and grabbed 10 rebounds to lead Indiana over the Lakers 110-91.

Los Angeles shot 33 percent from the floor and trailed by 39 points during the game.

CJ Miles scored 20, David West and C.J. Watson each scored 12, and Donald Sloan scored 17 points for Indiana. Kobe Bryant led the Lakers in scoring with 21 points, shooting 8 of 26 from the floor.

Nick Young scored 18 points and Carlos Boozer recorded a double-double with 13 points and 10 rebounds. The Pacers bench outscored the Lakers bench 52-46.

### HAWKS 93, BULLS 86

**ATLANTA (AP)** — Al Horford scored 21 points, including a huge jumper with just under a minute remaining, and the streaking Hawks won for the 10th time in 11 games with a victory over the Bulls.

The Hawks led most of the way, but never by more than 10 points. After Taj Gibson's dunk with 1:13 remaining brought the Bulls to 87-84, Horford got loose for a 19-footer on the wing and knocked it down.

Jimmy Butler led the Bulls

with 22 points. The Bulls had won six straight over the Hawks.

### BUCKS 96, SUNS 94

**PHOENIX (AP)** — Khris Middleton hit a 3-pointer at the buzzer, giving Milwaukee a win over Phoenix.

Middleton's shot bounced off the backboard and curled into the net for the game winner. It was the biggest three points of the 14 he scored on the night. The Bucks trailed 94-93 after Markieff Morris knocked down a 14-foot jumper from inside the free-throw line with 3.9 seconds left.

Morris led the Suns with 25 points, including two buckets in the last 24 seconds of a back-and-forth final five minutes.

Brandon Knight dropped in a running jump shot with 7.2 seconds left, part of his team-high 20 points for the Bucks (13-12).

Isaiah Thomas scored 11 of his 20 points in the fourth quarter.

### TRAIL BLAZERS 108, SPURS 95

**PORTLAND, Oregon (AP)** — Damian Lillard had 23 points and a career-high 10 rebounds as Portland downed short-handed San Antonio.

LaMarcus Aldridge added 23 points and 14 rebounds for the Blazers, who have won seven of their last nine games. But starting center Robin Lopez injured his right hand early in the second half and did not return.

Kawhi Leonard had 21 points and nine rebounds for the Spurs, who had just 10 players available. Tim Duncan, who had 15 points and nine rebounds in a 99-91 victory the night before, was given the night off.

### CLIPPERS 113, PISTONS 99



Milwaukee Bucks' Khris Middleton celebrates after scoring the game-winning basket against the Phoenix Suns' after an NBA basketball game, Monday, Dec. 15, 2014, in Phoenix. The Bucks won 96-94.

Associated Press

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Blake Griffin scored 18 points and DeAndre Jordan had 16 points and 15 rebounds, as Los Angeles breezed over Detroit.

Chris Paul had 11 points and eight assists. He committed one turnover in 24 minutes, after getting six in each of his previous two games. Paul finished last season with a league-best 4.57 assist-to-turnover ratio. Jodie Meeks had 20 points for Detroit.

J.J. Redick scored 14 points, and his streak of 29 games with a 3-pointer ended one game shy of teammate

Matt Barnes' franchise record.

Jodie Meeks had 20 points and Andre Drummond had 18 points and 13 rebounds for the Pistons, who were coming off road wins against Phoenix and Sacramento after losing 13 straight.

In other NBA games it was Boston 105, Philadelphia 87; Indiana 110, L.A. Lakers 91; Cleveland 97, Charlotte 88; Atlanta 93, Chicago 86; Toronto 95, Orlando 82; Milwaukee 96, Phoenix 94; Portland 108, San Antonio 95; and L.A. Clippers 113, Detroit 91. □



# Festival Figure

By: Dr. Carlos Viana

Already in October the Christmas shows in the stores were set up to entice you to buy all the ornaments to decorate your home and business. Decorations and figures of a fat, red Santa are available, promising to put anyone in the Holiday Spirits. Medically, when I take a look at the store Santa figure, with his large rotund belly and red face that sports a bulbous nose I see many signs of heart attack candidate. Not that Santa Claus could have heart problems, not allowed.

As cute as round Santa seems to be, most people want to enter the Holiday Season looking fit and trim. In the next two months many people, especially women, are going to pay good money to join commercial weight loss programs in hopes of dropping a size or two. Unfortunately, people tend to regain the weight they lost following a program because once it's finished, they return to their normal eating habits. Furthermore, the body is always trying to fend off what it perceives to be starvation, and losing weight triggers hormone changes that make it difficult to keep shedding pounds. In the last eleven years in our grass- roots clinic we have seen all kinds of lose weight schemes. This year I have listed all the erroneous beliefs that I have heard from our patients. 1. "Lose 30 pounds in 30 days." Any commercial weight loss programs or

any other gimmick that pledges massive weight loss quickly is certainly not healthy, and not true. Permanent weight loss requires lifestyle change, not a quick fix. Loosing weight very fast usually means dehydrating your body and loosing muscle.

2. Lose weight by not eating. Without question the worse way to try to loose weight. Starving deprives the body of the nutrients it needs for life and can lead to serious illness. Plus you lose muscle mass, not fat. Even if you do lose pounds, you gain them back almost immediately when you start eating again.

3. Carbohydrates are bad for you. First it was fat, now carbohydrates are the bad guy. Insulin, stimulated by the excess simple carbohydrates in our overabundant consumption of grains, starches and sweets, together with sedentary lifestyles is responsible for all those bulging stomachs, fat thighs and chins. However there are healthy complex carbohydrates, such as vegetables, whole brown rice and quinoa, which provide vital vitamins, and fiber to aid digestion.

4. Fat is bad for you. Your brain is eighty percent fat; not fat you want to loose. Some fats like trans-fats found in processed foods and sweets are unhealthy, but many called essential fatty acids are good and necessary for your health. Your body is not going to be able to make your hormones with-

out these fats.

5. Drinking Diet sodas help you loose weight. There's not one study that shows diet sodas help you lose weight. Meanwhile while you are drinking your liquid candy you are consuming chemicals that have shown to cause cancer.

6. Salad bars are healthy. Lunch meats with chemical salts, cheeses, oily dressings are not healthy choices. You have to choose foods at a salad bar wisely to loose weight. Meanwhile, "Iceberg" lettuce has absolutely no nutritional value. 7. Don't eat after 6 p.m. Europeans eat at 10 o'clock at night and they're half the size of Americans and Arubans. It is not what time you eat, it's what you eat and staying active for at least three hours after you eat. The worse eating habit here in Aruba after a night of drinking is to eat a late snack at a food truck and then home to bed.

8. Check your weight on a scale daily to check your progress. Checking your weight on a regular basis is an obvious way to gauge your progress and alter your diet accordingly; however, that scale tells you very little. I encourage patients to keep track of hip, thigh and stomach tummy centimeters and dress sizes that are much more enlightening.

9. To lose weight take a pill or have an operation to have your stomach made smaller. Wow, your insurance company may even



pay some of these. You cannot replace healthy eating, exercise and lifestyle choices with a pill or operation. Drugs are not new, they have been tried for many years and both drugs and operations can be dangerous and have horrible side effects. A better choice includes natural dietary supplements which can safely balance nutritional deficiencies, aid in managing unhealthy eating, support restful sleep and increase energy.

10. You have to join the gym. Actually, 30 to 60 minutes per day of moderate physical activity is all it takes to balance healthy food intake. It does not have to be strenuous exercise, just move your body by gardening, walking, swimming, SCUBA diving, flying, dancing or having sex; just get off the couch. Get The Point! That majority of Americans and Arubans are overweight, and an alarming number are clinically obese. In countries addicted to convenient processed foods this obesity is no coincidence. It is not the fat in the foods we eat but, far more, the excess simple carbohydrates from our starch and sugar load-

ed diets. These nutritionally deficient diets not only contribute to increased weight but lead to a whole host of health problems. Want to enter the Holiday Season being fit and trim? That belly might look cute on Santa, but on you it is a major health risk. Call to make an appointment for a professional, safe, sensible weight loss program. . DREAMS: THE HIDDEN SECRETS TO ABUNDANCE - a 4 week workshop starting Wed., 07 Nov, call for reservations.

CARLOS VIANA, Ph. D. is an Oriental Medical Doctor (O.M.D.) having studied in Shanghai, China; a Board Cert. Clinical Nutritionist (C.C.N.), a fellow member of the Board Certified Association of Addiction Professionals (C.Ad.), the Chairperson of the Latin American Committee of the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology (IAOMT), a Rejuvenating Cell Therapist and specializes in Anti-Aging Medicine, has a weekly radio program, writes and lectures extensively. For information: VIANA NATURAL HEALING CENTER NV, Kibaima 7, Aruba, TEL: 585-1270, Web Site: [www.vianaheal.com](http://www.vianaheal.com)

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# Robin Williams' suicide seizes the year on Google

**MICHAEL LIEDTKE**

**AP Technology Writer**

**SAN FRANCISCO (AP)** —

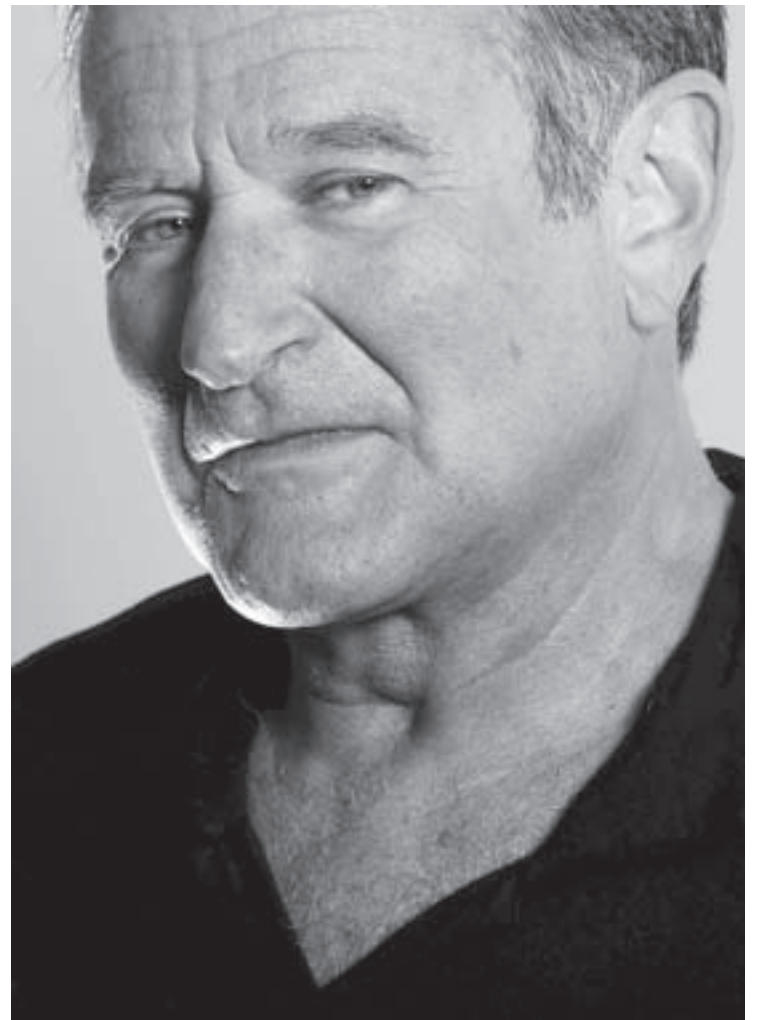
Robin Williams' suicide seared into the world's collective mindset more than anything else this year, based on what people were searching for on Google.

The reaction to Williams' death in August topped Google's list of 2014's fastest-rising search requests. It beat notable events such as the World Cup, the Ebola outbreak, the March disappearance of Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 and the Ice Bucket Chal-

lenge, an Internet video craze to raise awareness and money for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or Lou Gehrig's Disease. Other topics of worldwide intrigue on Google included the addictive smartphone game "Flappy Bird," bearded drag queen Conchita Wurst, the Middle East extremist group ISIS, the hit Disney movie "Frozen," and the Winter Olympics in Russia. Williams, Ebola, the World Cup and the Ice Bucket also ranked among the most-discussed subjects this year

on Facebook, which released its list last week. Google released its list Tuesday.

Williams' death drove many people to reminisce about his career highlights. In the first few days after his suicide, there was a six-fold increase in the number of Google searches for "carpe diem" — a Latin phrase for "seize the day" that Williams popularized in the film "Dead Poets Society." Reports about Williams' long-running battle with depression caused searches for that term to triple.



This Aug. 14, 2009 file photo shows actor Robin Williams in Los Angeles. The reaction to Williams' death in August 2014 topped Google's list of the year's fastest-rising search requests.

Associated Press

# T-Mobile to let customers carry over unused data

**ANICK JESDANUN**

**AP Technology Writer**

**NEW YORK (AP)** —

T-Mobile will now let customers carry over their unused cellular-data allotments.

U.S. wireless carriers have been pushing consumers into larger data plans, but they typically lose what they don't use at the end of their billing month. Under T-Mobile's plan announced Tuesday, customers would be able to stash what they don't use for up to a year. It's reminiscent of the days before wireless companies offered unlimited voice calls; some carriers were offering to roll over unused minutes into future months. T-Mobile said that with its plans, customers won't have to guess how much data they might need. If they buy too much, they can save it. This approach also helps customers who might not use the same amount of data each month. Watching video while traveling — without the benefits of Wi-Fi at home or work — can quickly use up the data allotment. A two-hour movie can easily consume more than a gigabyte.

The program is open only to customers on Simple Choice plans with at least



In this Sept. 12, 2012 file photo, a man uses a cellphone as he passes a T-Mobile store in New York.

Associated Press

3 gigabytes for a smartphone or 1 gigabyte for a tablet. Eligible customers won't need to do anything to participate. Customers will also get a one-time free allotment of 10 gigabytes when the program starts next month.

T-Mobile, the nation's No. 4 wireless carrier, billed the new program as the company's latest "Un-carrier" move. It's a term T-Mobile uses to describe programs and plans that shatter long-standing industry practices. Past announcements have included replacing two-year service contracts with phone installment plans and letting customers upgrade phones more frequently than every other year. Rivals have since ad-

opted parts of those programs.

But T-Mobile isn't alone in offering data flexibility. Other carriers do it by letting families share a collective pool of data within a given month — so Mom can be a data hog one month, while Junior uses a lot of data the next. However, unused data won't roll over, and if both Mom and Junior use a lot of data in the same month, the family could be subject to overage fees.

T-Mobile does not offer data-sharing plans at all, and its family plans require each person to manage a separate allotment of data. The company does not charge overage fees, but instead slows down data speeds until the next month. □

There was also a flurry of searches about his movies (the top five were: "Mrs. Doubtfire," "Dead Poets Society," "Good Will Hunting," "Jumanji" and "Patch Adams.") Google's worldwide list of the year's hottest search requests mirrored the activity in the U.S. with a few exceptions. Wurst didn't make the Top 10 list in the U.S., nor did the Winter Olympics. Instead, Web surfers in the U.S. were seeking more information about the August confrontation that culminated in a white policeman shooting and killing an unarmed black man in Ferguson, Missouri. Ukraine's conflict with Russia also held more intrigue in the U.S. than the rest of the world.

Google's review follows annual roundups compiled during the previous two weeks by its main search rivals. Although Google's list usually comes last each year, its rankings typically provide more telling insights into what people were thinking because the company's technology processes about two out

of every three search requests made on the Internet.

Yahoo's search lists indicated that its websites tend to attract entertainment-minded people. While Ebola topped Yahoo's rankings for 2014, celebrities or entertainers occupied six of the other slots. They were singer Ariana Grande (No. 3), actress Jennifer Lawrence (No. 4), actress Kaley Cuoco (No. 5), reality TV star Kim Kardashian (No. 6), singer Miley Cyrus (No. 8) and actress Jennifer Aniston (No. 10). Yahoo's list was rounded out by: the video game "Minecraft," whose popularity prompted Microsoft to buy it for \$2.5 billion earlier this year; "Frozen," and Apple's latest gadget, the iPhone 6.

Instead of doing a wide-ranging compilation of top searches, Microsoft's Bing separated its lists into disparate categories, such as athletes (NBA star LeBron James soared the highest), celebrities (Kardashian reigned), vacation destinations (Costa Rica) and musicians (Beyonce). □



# Wall Street closes lower as early rally fizzles

**MATTHEW CRAFT**  
**AP Business Writer**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Sudden twists in the price of oil and currency trading turned the stock market into a roller-coaster ride on Tuesday. Major indexes opened lower as falling oil prices and a plunge in the Russian ruble weighed on markets. Less than an hour later, crude oil recovered and oil and gas producers surged, driv-

ing the Dow Jones industrial average up as much as 246 points in the morning. All of the gains were wiped out in the last hour. The Standard & Poor's 500 index ended with a loss of 16.89 points, or 0.9 percent, to 1,972.74. The Dow Jones industrial average lost 111.97 points, or 0.7 percent, to 17,068.87, while the Nasdaq composite dropped 57.32 points, or

1.2 percent, to 4,547.83. The turbulence drove traders into the safety of U.S. government bonds, driving prices up and yields down. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note sank to 2.06 percent from 2.12 percent late Monday, a big move in the normally placid market. The volatility in financial markets is likely to last until oil prices find a stable floor, high of 2,075.37 on Dec. 5, the S&P 500 has fallen into a slump, losing ground on six of the past seven trading days. Energy companies have been hit hard, a result of the ongoing slump in crude. The S&P 500 has lost 4.6 percent so far this month. December, usually one of the market's best months, hasn't lived up to its reputation. The price of U.S. oil settled

strategist at Wells Fargo Fund Management, said that the trouble in developing countries highlighted the stability of the U.S. economy and its stock market.

"Yes, I do worry about Russia, yes I do worry about Venezuela, and you can't really have oil come down more than 45 percent without somebody having a problem, somewhere," Manley said. "But there's an old saying on Wall Street, 'In a dog-eat-dog market, get yourself a big dog,' and the U.S. is the ultimate big dog when it comes to this sort of thing." Falling oil prices have also hammered markets in the Persian Gulf. Dubai's main market and Abu Dhabi's closed at their lowest points of the year on Tuesday with losses of 7 percent. Saudi Arabia's stock market fell 7.3 percent. Many are concerned that the drop in the price of oil will lead to less government spending and political unrest.

Back in the U.S., precious and industrial metals futures fell. Gold declined \$13.40 to \$1,194.30 an ounce, and silver fell 81 cents to \$15.75 an ounce. Copper slipped two cents to \$2.86 a pound. Brent crude, a benchmark for international oils used by many U.S. refineries, fell \$1.20 to close at \$59.86 in London.

In other commodity trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange:

— Wholesale gasoline dropped 3.5 cents to close at \$1.541 a gallon.

— Heating oil lost 4.2 cents to \$1.960 a gallon. □

## Repsol buys Talisman for \$8.3 billion

**CIARAN GILES**  
**Associated Press**

**MADRID (AP)** — Spanish energy company Repsol is buying Canadian oil firm Talisman Energy for \$8.3 billion, a combination that would be among the 15 largest privately owned oil and gas companies in the world, Repsol said Tuesday. Repsol S.A. said Talisman's incorporation will increase Repsol's output by 76 percent to 680,000 barrels of oil equivalent per day, and boost reserves by 55 percent.

The company said the deal has been approved by the boards of both companies. The transaction is subject to the approval of the Canadian courts and Talisman shareholders, and is expected to be complete in mid-2015.

Repsol said it would also take on \$4.7 billion of Talisman debt.

The group will be present in more than 50 countries with over 27,000 employees.

"This is truly a transformational operation for Repsol," Chief Executive Officer Josu Jon Imaz told a news conference. "It's a good deal at the right time."

Imaz said the deal ended a 15-month search for acquisitions and will be financed mainly with Repsol's cash reserves.

A Repsol statement said it marked the culmination of a transformation process following Argentina's 2012 nationalization of YPF energy company, in which Repsol had a majority stake. Repsol said earlier this year that it earned \$6.3 billion in bond and share sales on finally extricating itself from the Argentine company. The company said the Talisman shareholders were being offered \$8 (6.40 euros) per share, representing a 24 percent premium over the average share price of the last three months. It said Talisman's shares closed at \$4.29 in New York on Friday. □



**Trader Sal Suarino, left, works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. Sudden twists in the price of oil and currency trading turned the stock market into a roller-coaster ride on Tuesday. (AP Photo/Richard Drew)**

ing the Dow Jones industrial average up as much as 246 points in the morning. All of the gains were wiped out in the last hour. The Standard & Poor's 500 index ended with a loss of 16.89 points, or 0.9 percent, to 1,972.74. The Dow Jones industrial average lost 111.97 points, or 0.7 percent, to 17,068.87, while the Nasdaq composite dropped 57.32 points, or

said Marc Zabicki, senior market strategist at Ameriprise Financial. "Lower oil prices certainly are a net positive for U.S. consumer spending," he said. "But there's a contagion risk out there that investors have an eye on. Namely, what does it do to shale gas players, and what does it mean to the banks that lend to them?" Since reaching a record

higher on Tuesday for the first time in a week, rising 2 cents to close at \$55.93 a barrel in New York. Oil has fallen by nearly half since June as demand wanes and supply surges. Major markets in Europe surged. France's CAC 40 gained 2.2 percent, while Germany's DAX picked up 2.5 percent. Britain's FTSE 100 climbed 2.4 percent. John Manley, chief equity

## RadioShack hires advisory firm to cut costs

**NEW YORK (AP)** — RadioShack is bringing in FTI Consulting as an adviser in the midst of another round of cost cuts as the troubled electronics retailer warned again last week that it may have to seek bankruptcy protection. The company said in a regulatory filing on Tuesday that Carlin Adrianopoli, a senior managing director with FTI's corporate fi-

nance and restructuring service, will take over as interim chief financial officer at RadioShack. Holly Etlin, who became interim CFO in September, will no longer serve in that position. The company hired former Treasury Department adviser Harry Wilson to help with its turnaround efforts in late October. Last week, RadioShack Corp. posted wider third-

quarter losses and said it would boost earnings by changing store hours and staffing, altering overtime practices and cutting its field manager staff. A trade group also ruled that RadioShack has not failed to make debt payments, despite a lender accusing the chain of violating terms on a \$250 million loan. RadioShack warned in September that it may

have to seek Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection, and last week CEO Joseph Magnacca reiterated that stance, saying that there's no assurance the Fort Worth, Texas-based company can put into place a long-term solution to stay afloat.

Shares of RadioShack fell by a penny, or more than 3 percent, to 38 cents in morning trading. □



## Mad as Hellas



**PAUL KRUGMAN**  
© 2014 New York Times

The Greek fiscal crisis erupted five years ago, and its side effects continue to inflict immense damage on Europe and the world. But I'm not talking about the side effects you may have in mind - spillovers from Greece's Great Depression-level slump or financial contagion to other debtors. No, the truly disastrous effect of the Greek crisis was the way it distorted economic policy, as supposedly serious people around the world rushed to learn the wrong lessons.

Now Greece appears to be in crisis again. Will we learn the right lessons this time?

What happened last time, you may recall, was the exploitation of Greece's woes to change the economic subject. Suddenly, we were supposed to obsess over budget deficits, even if borrowing costs were at historic lows, and slash government spending, even in the face of mass unemployment. Because if we didn't, you see, we could turn into Greece any day now. "Greece stands as a warning of what happens to countries that lose their credibility," intoned David Cameron, Britain's prime minister, as he announced austerity policies in 2010. "We are on the same path as Greece," declared Rep. Paul Ryan, who was soon to become the chairman of the House Budget Committee, that same year.

In reality, Britain and the United States, which borrow in their own currencies, were and are nothing like Greece. If you thought otherwise in 2010, by now year after year of incredibly low interest rates and low inflation should have convinced you. And the experience of Greece and other European countries that were forced into harsh austerity measures should also have convinced you that slashing spending in a depressed economy is a really bad idea if you can avoid it. This is true even in the supposed success stories - Ireland, for example, is finally growing again, but it still has almost 11 percent unemployment and twice that rate among young people.

And the devastation in Greece is awesome to behold. Some press reports I've seen seem to suggest that the country has been a malingering, balking at the harsh measures its situation demands. In reality, it has

made huge adjustments - slashing public employment and compensation, cutting back social programs, raising taxes. If you want a sense of the scale of austerity, it would be as if the United States had introduced spending cuts and tax increases amounting to more than \$1 trillion a year. Meanwhile, wages in the private sector have plunged. Yet a quarter of the Greek labor force, and half its young, remain unemployed. Meanwhile, the debt situation has if anything gotten worse, with the ratio of public debt to GDP at a record high - mainly because of falling GDP, not rising debt - and with the emergence of a big private debt problem, thanks to deflation and depression. There are some positives; the economy is growing a bit, finally, largely thanks to a revival of tourism. But, overall, it has been many years of suffering for very little reward.

The remarkable thing, given all that, has been the willingness of the Greek public to take it, to accept the claims of the political establishment that the pain is necessary and will eventually lead to recovery. The news that has roiled Europe these past few days is that the Greeks may have reached their limit. The details are complex, but basically the current government is trying a fairly desperate political maneuver to put off a general election. And, if it fails, the likely winner in that election is Syriza, a party of the left that has demanded a renegotiation of the austerity program, which could lead to a confrontation with Germany and exit from the euro.

The important point here is that it's not just the Greeks who are mad as Hellas (their own name for their country) and aren't going to take it anymore. Look at France, where Marine Le Pen, the leader of the anti-immigrant National Front, outpolls mainstream candidates of both right and left. Look at Italy, where about half of voters support radical parties like the Northern League and the Five-Star Movement. Look at Britain, where both anti-immigrant politicians and Scottish separatists are threatening the political order.

It would be a terrible thing if any of these groups - with the exception, surprisingly, of Syriza, which seems relatively benign - were to come to power. But there's a reason they're on the rise. This is what happens when an elite claims the right to rule based on its supposed expertise, its understanding of what must be done - then demonstrates both that it does not, in fact, know what it is doing and that it is too ideologically rigid to learn from its mistakes.

I have no idea how events in Greece are about to turn out. But there's a real lesson in its political turmoil that's much more important than the false lesson too many took from its special fiscal woes. □



## It's Cruel. It's Useless. It's the CIA



**GAIL COLLINS**  
© 2014 New York Times

We learned a lot from that big Senate Intelligence Committee report on CIA interrogation tactics after 9/11. It was what may be the first time in U.S. history that the term "rectal hydration" appeared in family newspapers throughout the land. One of the most unnerving parts involves the fact that the waterboarding, ice baths and wall-slammings were conducted under the direction of an outside contractor. It isn't the first time the government turned to private enterprise and wound up with a human rights disaster - think Abu Ghraib. Or Blackwater. But this seems like an excellent place to demand a cease-and-desist.

The specialists' names are James Mitchell and Bruce Jessen. Like many contractors doing work for the government, they're former government workers themselves - in this case, military psychologists. And like virtually all contractors doing work for the government, they were making a heck of a lot more than they'd have gotten as federal employees. In this case, about \$80 million.

Mitchell and Jessen had acquired their expertise by teaching Air Force officers how to resist brutal Cold War-style interrogations. Think pilots who get shot down behind enemy lines and get tortured by Communists. And for all we know, they may have done a great job showing their pupils how to

withstand pressure to record a statement denouncing the United States when they crash land in North Korea.

But it's not precisely the same thing as trying to get a suspected al-Qaida operative to tell you where Osama bin Laden is hiding. Plus, Mitchell and Jessen had no experience as actual interrogators, did not speak any of the detainees' languages and had no particular knowledge about Islam or al-Qaida. They did have some theories about other psychologists' work subjecting dogs to random electric shocks until their will to resist was completely broken. Maybe, the two men thought, you could torment human beings into the same state of "learned helplessness." Worth a try, right? Mitchell and Jessen set about applying the theory to prisoners the CIA had collected. Some of them had already been cooperating with interrogators. Others turned out later to have had no involvement with al-Qaida whatsoever.

Others, undoubtedly, were bad people with information the CIA needed, who had resisted talking under nonviolent interrogation. The question then becomes whether they cooperated better under "learned helplessness" or simply made up stories to placate their torturers and send the CIA off in the wrong direction.

There's a lot of precedent for the making-up approach. During World War II, a U.S. pilot was shot down over Japan just after the Hiroshima attack and was tortured repeatedly for information about the atomic bomb, of which he knew nothing. Threatened with beheading, the pilot told his captors that the United States had 100 atomic bombs and that Tokyo was next on the target list. The bogus information was immediately shared with the war minister and the Japanese Cabinet.

The Intelligence Committee report concludes that all the torturing produced very little information that was useful and possibly quite a bit that was made up. While we would

love to believe that the human rights angle would be most effective in shocking the American people, polls show that when it comes to suspects with possible terror involvement, the public attitude toward torture is kind of meh. So, wisely, the committee's big point was useless/counterproductive.

"It's wrong enough that one shouldn't do it period. But wrong and useless is a tough combination," said Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse of Rhode Island.

He was on the Intelligence Committee when the report was being prepared and now leads a Judiciary subcommittee on crime and terrorism.

And why the private contractors? Maybe because the actual government interrogators didn't believe torture worked either. Some complained that, after Mitchell and Jessen arrived, reasonably cooperative prisoners were suddenly brutalized under the theory that the original approach had been too "sissified."

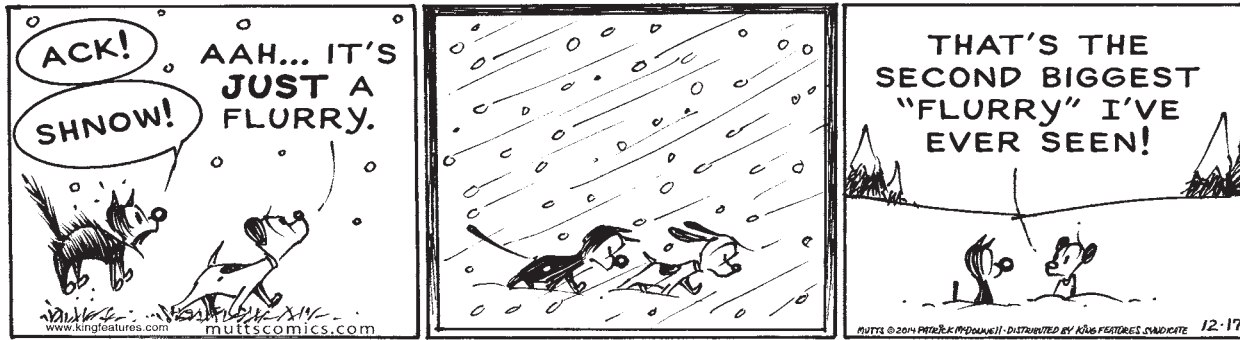
What made the CIA decide that these guys were a good plan? Have they not watched "Homeland" this season? (Ever since Saul left the CIA to become a private consultant, he's been a disaster.)

"I do think there's something about the culture of purchase: 'We don't have the answer, but we can buy it,'" said Baher Azmy, the legal director at the Center for Constitutional Rights. Tim Shorrock, the author of "Spies for Hire," believes it's just a way to hide things: "The activities of contractors are so easy to conceal in budgets." Naturally, defenders of the CIA are rising up to challenge the report's findings. The Associated Press got hold of James Mitchell himself, who said the report was "just factually, demonstrably incorrect," then declined to say exactly what the inaccuracies were.

Citing a secrecy agreement with the CIA, Mitchell didn't share much else, except that being waterboarded was still better than being killed by a drone. □



**Mutts**



**6 Chix**



**Blondie**



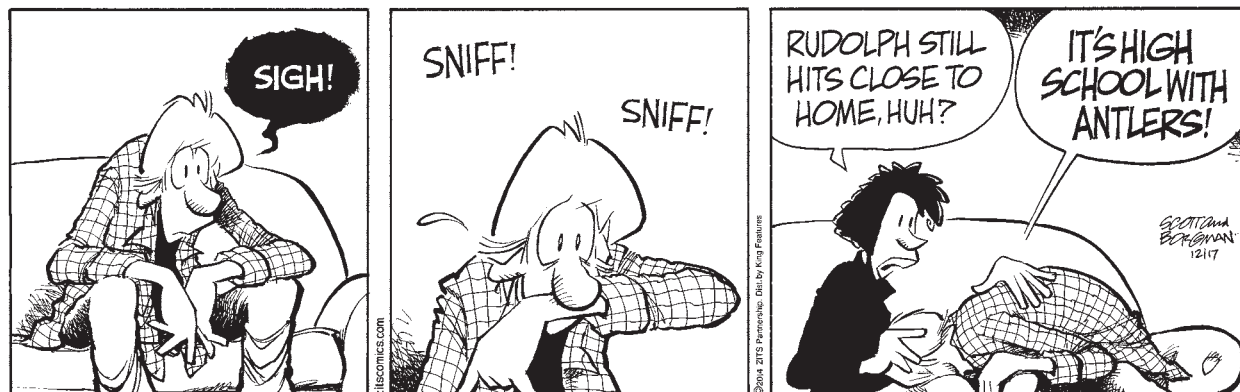
**Mother Goose & Grimm**



**Baby Blues**



**Zits**



**Conceptis Sudoku**

		8	5	9	7	1		
	3						5	
6				2				7
8				7				9
5	4			3	8	2		6
2								5
3								1
	8			5			2	
		4	9	1	2	6		

Difficulty Level ★★★

12/17

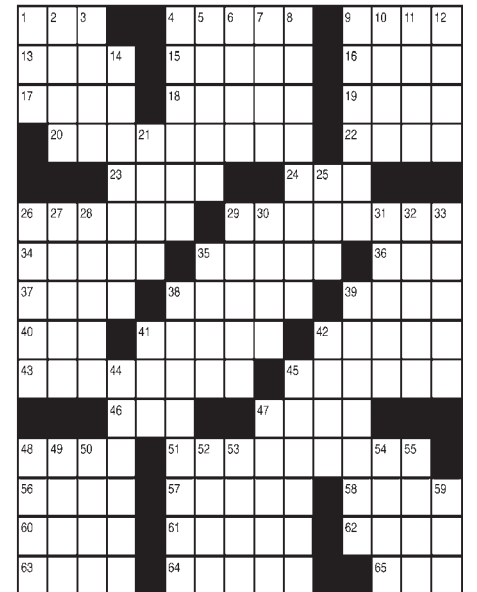
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

7	9	4	2	8	1	5	6	3
5	2	3	6	4	7	1	9	8
6	8	1	3	9	5	4	2	7
8	5	2	9	7	4	6	3	1
9	3	6	1	5	2	7	8	4
1	4	7	8	6	3	9	5	2
4	1	9	5	2	8	3	7	6
3	6	8	7	1	9	2	4	5
2	7	5	4	3	6	8	1	9

**ACROSS**

- "You \_\_\_ what you eat"
- Burn with a hot liquid
- Make a tiny cut
- Balkan native
- Mischievous sprite
- Jailbird's quarters
- Long story
- Cooking chambers
- Vigorous
- Dolphins' cousins
- "\_\_\_ long way to Tipperary..."
- Small brook
- Golfer Ernie \_\_\_
- Concurs
- Shaking
- Tows
- Wooden box
- Hit a tennis ball in a high arc
- Recedes
- Camel features
- City in Texas
- Brewed drink
- Tiny skin openings
- \_\_\_ pie; dessert made with nuts
- Abandoned
- "TV Guide" or "People"
- One of the Seven Dwarfs
- Couldn't float
- Shine
- Building designer
- \_\_\_ Scotia
- \_\_\_ gold
- Hammerer's target
- Drug addict
- Wear away
- Show boldness
- \_\_\_ in the "Clowns"
- Tailor or seamstress
- Butterfly catcher's need



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

12/17/14

**Tuesday's Puzzle Solved**

SAKE	START	TODD
PLEA	CEDAR	RUIN
USER	ADOBE	ACME
ROLLERS	BEACHES	
	OAF	VISIT
DOUBT	SOS	LOATH
WINE	WAY	HERNIA
ALI	ROTATED	DEN
RETAIN	GEM	HERD
FREUD	REX	SASSY
	DEFER	BIB
ASPIRIN	JUNIPER	
BOUT	RADAR	TILE
COMO	SMIRK	ALMS
STAR	TENSE	TEST

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12/17/14

**DOWN**

- Beast of burden
- Gather crops
- Therefore
- Thread holders
- Not rude
- Chopping tools
- Queue
- Mousse & cake
- Religious split
- Orderly
- Misfortunes
- "Guilty" or "Not guilty"
- Trash cans
- Cutie-\_\_\_; sweethearts
- General Robert E. \_\_\_
- Leading, so far
- Actor Clark \_\_\_
- Hicks
- Carrying a gun
- Military funeral bugle song
- Color of half the checkers
- From the neighborhood
- Very dark wood
- Remedy
- Flapjacks
- Friday follower
- Expert
- \_\_\_ up; confined
- Actor \_\_\_ G. Robinson
- Café employee
- Sun blocker
- Widebeests
- Suffer defeat
- Kiln
- Seldom seen
- Brag
- James or Scott
- Grow weary
- Allow



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Oceanview \$9k  
Oceanfront \$14.500k  
3 BEDRM OV \$17k

### Marriott Aruba Ocean club

GOLD Season  
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2B Oceanfront \$14500  
1B Oceanfront \$8500

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24/7

## U.S. study: All-electric car may not be so green

**SETH BORENSTEIN**  
**AP Science Writer**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — People who own all-electric cars where coal generates the power may think they are helping the environment. But a new U.S. study finds their vehicles actually make the air dirtier, worsening global warming. Ethanol isn't so green, either.

"It's kind of hard to beat gasoline" for public and environmental health, said study co-author Julian Marshall, an engineering professor at the University of Minnesota. "A lot of the technologies that we think of as being clean ... are not better than gasoline."

The key is where the source of the electricity all-electric cars. If it comes from coal, the electric cars produce 3.6 times more soot and smog deaths than gas, because of the pollution made in generating the electricity, according to the study that is published Monday by the Proceed-



In this photo taken July 14, 2010, an electric plug charges a Smart Car electric drive vehicle in New York.

**Associated Press**

ings of the National Academy of Sciences. They also are significantly worse at heat-trapping carbon dioxide that worsens global warming, it found.

The study examines environmental costs for cars' entire life cycle, including where power comes from and the environmental effects of building batteries.

"Unfortunately, when a wire is connected to an electric vehicle at one end and a coal-fired power plant at the other end, the environmental consequences are worse than driving a normal gasoline-powered car," said Ken Caldeira of the Carnegie Institution for Science, who wasn't part of the study but praised it.

The states with the highest percentage of electricity coming from coal, according to the Department of Energy, are West Virginia, Wyoming, Ohio, North Dakota, and Illinois.

Still, there's something to be said for the idea of helping foster a cleaner technology that will be better once it is connected to a cleaner grid, said study co-author Jason Hill, another University of Minnesota engineering professor.

The study finds all-electric vehicles cause 86 percent more deaths from air pol-

lution than do cars powered by regular gasoline. Coal produces 39 percent of the country's electricity, according to the Department of Energy.

But if the power supply comes from natural gas, the all-electric car produces half as many air pollution health problems as gas-powered cars do. And if the power comes from wind, water or wave energy, it produces about one-quarter of the air pollution deaths.

Hybrids and diesel engines are cleaner than gas, causing fewer air pollution deaths and spewing less heat-trapping gas.

But ethanol isn't, with 80 percent more air pollution mortality, according to the study.

"If we're using ethanol for environmental benefits, for air quality and climate change, we're going down the wrong path," Hill said. □

## Curiosity rover detects spikes of methane at Mars

**MARCIA DUNN**

**AP Aerospace Writer**  
**CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida**

**(AP)** — NASA's Mars rover, Curiosity, has detected spikes of methane in the planet's atmosphere. That suggests something is producing or venting the scientifically tantalizing gas, but no one knows what.

Most of Earth's atmospheric methane comes from animal and plant life, and the environment itself. So the Martian methane raises the question of past or present microbial life. Or the gas elevations could come from geological

sources, comet impacts or something else entirely.

The latest study, released Tuesday by the journal Science, indicates there's less than half the expected amount of methane in the atmosphere around Curiosity's location in Gale Crater. But over a full Martian year, the rover measured fairly frequent occurrences of elevated methane levels — tenfold increases.

"This temporary increase in methane — sharply up and then back down — tells us there must be some relatively localized source," the University of Michi-

gan's Sushil Atreya, part of the Curiosity team, said in a statement. "There are many possible sources, biological or non-biological, such as interaction of water and rock."

In addition, Curiosity detected other organic molecules when it drilled into a rock. Scientists said it's believed to be the first confirmation of organic carbon in a Martian rock. The identity of the organic material is unknown.

The Jet Propulsion Laboratory's Christopher Webster led the international study of methane. □



# Over and out: TV flops, exits and endings in 2014

FRAZIER MOORE

AP Television Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Along with its triumphs, the world of TV had its share of setbacks in 2014. Here's a sample:

— “How I Met Your Mother” Concludes: This long-running CBS sitcom met few viewers' expectations for a slam-bang finish. Its big reveal — naming the titular “your mother” after nine years of teasing — yielded a finale only slightly less tangled than the ending of “Lost.” And even “Lost” resisted the temptation to include a blue French horn in its wrap-up.

— David Gregory Exits “Meet the Press”: After months of speculation that Gregory was being ousted from the program he had hosted since 2008, NBC News announced in August he was toast. That was 18 months after the net-

work signed him to a new contract it described as “a long-term commitment.” And four months after NBC News' president defended him in a memo to “Meet the Press” staff expressing support “for David, now and into the future.” His future was short-lived. He was out in a jiffy, with Chuck Todd his replacement.

— Ray Rice's Elevator Assault: Over and over, viewers were force-fed the chilling video of Baltimore Ravens running back Ray Rice striking his then-fiancee and knocking her out. After it was released on a Monday in September, the video of Janay Palmer crumpling to the elevator floor was aired repeatedly by multiple networks. In one particular hour, the clip aired 37 times on ABC, CBS, NBC, CNN, Fox News Channel and MSNBC. But by Thursday, many of those

networks vowed to give it a rest. But Rice isn't necessarily off the air. Having lately appealed his indefinite suspension by the NFL, and won, he's eligible to play again in the NFL — and log more TV face time.

— “Utopia” Unrealized: Arriving with much fanfare, this Fox reality show stranded a group of strangers at a remote site where, during the year to follow, they were meant to build a more perfect society. But it turned out they couldn't even build a show that viewers would watch. Puny ratings forced its cancellation after just two months. For Fox (and the human race) “Utopia” swiftly proved to be a dream unfulfilled.

— “Peter Pan Live!” It proposed a bold counter-theory for the space-time continuum. It argued for eternal youth in a realm only



this Nov. 8, 2014 image provided by NBC shows, from left, John Allyn as Michael Darling, Allison Williams as Peter Pan, Jake Lucas as John Darling, and Taylor Louderman as Wendy Darling from the musical version, “Peter Pan Live!”

Associated Press

accessible by fairy dust-assisted human flight. Unfortunately, NBC's live production of this time-honored musical never managed to

take off. Viewers had the feeling they had grown up and grown old by the end of its three hours struggling to get off the ground.

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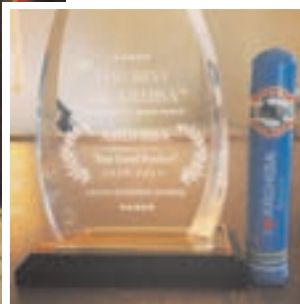


**ORANJESTAD-** Benjamin Petrocchi, a true native Aruban started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced hand rolled cigars called “Aruhiba”. These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrocchi always had a interest in the cigar business and has also sold Premium Cuban Cigars, and now he is growing his own tobacco crops. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba, he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhiba Cigars in Aruba. The whole process took him 10 years to perfect. Petrocchi dedication to the cigars is important for the moulding and process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. Their handmade cigar box is specially designed with their “Aruhiba” logo. Petrocchi considers

Aruhiba as a promotion for Aruba through its fine cigars. The company sells Aruhiba to the international markets as well. Visit their retail store located in front of the Historic Dutch Windmill in front of the RIO Hotel, with any purchase of \$20 and up you receive a free “Aruhiba” cigar or ask for their gift box of 5 cigars get 1 FREE for only \$37. They open from Monday to Saturday from 9 am till 6:30 pm and on Sundays from 10 am to 4 pm. Aruhiba cigars are now available at the gift stores in your resort and at well-known cigar stores. For their complete selection and attractive by the box prices visit their retail store. Tours are also

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## Cosby won't be charged over molestation claim

**ANTHONY McCARTNEY**  
AP Entertainment Writer

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Los Angeles prosecutors on Tuesday declined to file any charges against Bill Cosby after a woman recently claimed the comedian molested her around 1974.

The rejection of a child sexual abuse charge by prosecutors came roughly 10 days after the woman, Judy Huth, met with Los Angeles police detectives for 90 minutes.

The Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office rejected filing a misdemeanor charge of annoying or molesting a child under the age of 18 because the statute of limitations had passed.

Days before Huth spoke to police, she accused Cosby in a civil lawsuit of forcing her to perform a sex act on



Judy Huth, left, appears at a press conference with attorney Gloria Allred outside the Los Angeles Police Department's Wilshire Division station Friday Dec. 5, 2014. Associated Press

him in a bedroom of the Playboy Mansion when she was 15 years old. Cosby's attorney said that Huth attempted to extort \$250,000 from the comedian before she sued and that she'd attempted to sell her story to a tabloid a decade ago. Cosby is seeking a dismissal of Huth's lawsuit, arguing it

is blocked by the statute of limitations.

Huth told police that Cosby molested her and that she had no further contact with him after the incident, according to a summary of her allegations included with the prosecutor's decision. In rejecting the case, prosecutors evaluated the

charge Cosby would have faced in 1974. Prosecutors took into account legislative changes that extend the statute of limitations for certain crimes, but found no way that Cosby could be legally prosecuted.

The statute of limitations for filing a misdemeanor case is one year; the statute of limitations for a felony sex crime committed in 1974 was three years, according to the prosecutors' analysis. An email message sent to Huth's attorney, Gloria Allred, was not immediately returned. Cosby's attorney, Marty Singer, did not immediately return a message seeking comment.

Huth is one of at least 15 women who have come forward since early November with claims that Cosby sexually assaulted them decades ago. Most of the women say they were

drugged before they were assaulted. She is one of two women suing Cosby; a second woman is suing for defamation.

Cosby has never been charged in connection with any of the allegations. A 2005 lawsuit by a Pennsylvania woman was settled before it went to trial. Since the allegations emerged, Cosby's career has unraveled, with nearly a dozen performances canceled in his ongoing standup comedy tour. NBC has said it will not move forward with a Cosby sitcom that was under development, and Netflix indefinitely postponed a special that was set to premiere last month.

Cosby's attorneys have denied some of the allegations and dismissed others as decades old and "discredited." □



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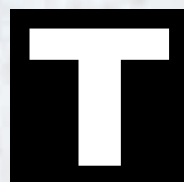
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